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INFO AMEMBASSY BEIJING

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E.O. 12356: DECL: 10/04/88

TAGS: ASEC, MOPS, PINS, PINT, PINR, SOPN, MILI, US, AF, PGOV

SUBJECT: AFGHANISTAN SITUATION REPORT, SEPTEMBER 28-OCTOBER 4, 1982

REF: KABUL 1571 *Not relevant*

1. (C.-ENTIRE TEXT.)

2. ALL OF THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION MAY BE USED IN BRIEF-
ING THE PRESS.

3. SUMMARY. DRA REGIME FORCES MAINTAINED AN INCREASED STATE OF ALERT DURING THE EXTENDED ID-E-AZHA HOLIDAYS IN LATE SEPTEMBER/EARLY OCTOBER. WHILE RESISTANCE INCIDENTS IN AND AROUND KABUL REMAINED AT A HIGH LEVEL, THERE WAS NO SINGLE DRAMATIC MUJAHIDEEN ACTION IN KABUL AS "NIGHT LETTERS" CIRCULATED EARLIER IN THE MONTH HAD IMPLIED. SOVIET PERSONNEL WERE ATTACKED IN THE HEART OF KABUL EARLY IN THE WEEK AND TWO SOVIET JEEPS BOMBED IN THE USUALLY TRANQUIL SHARE MAU NEIGHBORHOOD BEFORE CURFEW ON OCTOBER 3.

4. THE COMMANDER OF THE CENTRAL CORPS, GENERAL WODUD (PANJSHERI) WAS SHOT IN HIS MINISTRY OF NATIONAL DEFENSE OFFICE ON SEPTEMBER 29. VARIOUS RUMORS ATTRIBUTE HIS DEATH TO SUICIDE, FACTIONAL FIGHTING WITHIN THE PDPA, A PERSONAL VENDETTA, OR A MUJAHIDEEN ASSASSINATION. AT THIS POINT IT APPEARS MORE LIKELY THAT HE TOOK HIS OWN LIFE.

5. KABUL IS ALSO FULL OF RUMORS AND REPORTS FROM JALABAD
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THAT MUJAHIDEEN WHO VOLUNTARILY "SURRENDERED" CONVINCED REGIME AUTHORITIES THAT A LARGER NUMBER OF RESISTANCE FIGHTERS WOULD COME OVER TO THE DRA REGIME IF THEY RECEIVED MONEY AND WEAPONS. KHAD FORCES LURED TO THE KHOGIAN VALLEY WEST OF JALALABAD WERE SURROUNDED BY MUJAHIDEEN WHO TOOK THEIR MONEY, GUNS, AND LIVES.

6. DURING THE HOLIDAYS, VILLAGES NEAR PAGHMAN WERE SUB-
JECTED TO HELICOPTER AND MIG, ROCKET AND BOMB ATTACKS.
THE MAIN BAZAAR IN PAGHMAN TOWN WAS BOMBED AGAIN AFTER

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MUJAHIDEEN SUCCEEDED IN ABDUCTING A NUMBER OF AFGHAN AND SOVIET PERSONNEL, REPORTEDLY FOUR OF THE SOVIETS ARE BEING TAKEN TOWARD PAKISTAN. THE SHOMALI REGION NORTH OF KABUL WAS FREE FROM BOMBING LAST WEEK THOUGH THERE WERE CLASHES BETWEEN MUJAHIDEEN AND GOVERNMENT FORCES NEAR SHAKARDARA AND A NUMBER OF VILLAGES WERE SEARCHED BY SOVIET TROOPS WHO RELIEVED THE VILLAGERS OF THEIR MONEY, JEWELRY AND FOOD. END SUMMARY.

7. KABUL ATMOSPHERICS. FOR MOST KABUL RESIDENTS, THE PROLONGED HOLIDAYS CELEBRATING THE ID-E-AZHA IN LATE SEPTEMBER WERE A TIME TO BE REUNITED WITH FAMILY AND FRIENDS AND TO TRY TO FORGET THE WAR. WHILE A FESTIVE MOOD WAS SUSTAINED THROUGHOUT THE WEEK, DRA REGIME FORCES REMAINED ON HEIGHTENED ALERT AND RESISTANCE INCIDENTS IN AND AROUND KABUL CONTINUED AT A HIGH LEVEL. HOWEVER, THERE WAS NO SINGLE MAJOR DRAMATIC MUJAHIDEEN ACTION IN THE CAPITAL AS PROMISED IN "NIGHT LETTERS," CIRCULATED IN EARLY SEPTEMBER. THERE DOES SEEM TO HAVE BEEN AN INCREASE IN ACTIONS AGAINST INDIVIDUAL SOVIETS. ON SEPTEMBER 27 PASSERSBY SAW TWO PRESUMABLY SOVIET BODIES LYING IN THE STREET IN FRONT OF THE KABUL HOTEL BEFORE SOVIET TROOPS CORDONED OFF THE AREA. THIS AREA IS CONSIDERED ONE OF THE SAFEST IN KABUL WHICH IS PRESUMABLY WHY THE MAJORITY OF THE ROOMS IN THE KABUL HOTEL HAVE BEEN TAKEN OVER BY SOVIET MILITARY AND CIVIL-
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IAN PERSONNEL. SOVIETS WERE ALSO ATTACKED IN AN OCTOBER 3 BOMBING INCIDENT IN SHARE NAU DESCRIBED BELOW.

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B. COMMANDER OF CENTRAL CORPS IS DEAD. GENERAL ABDOU MOUO

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(PANJSHERI), WHO WAS PROMOTED TO GENERAL AND MADE COMMANDER OF THE CENTRAL CORPS EARLIER IN THE YEAR, IS DEAD OF GUNSHOT WOUND(S) INFLICTED IN HIS OFFICE ON SEPTEMBER 29. HIS BODY WAS TAKEN FROM THE WAZIR AKBAR KHAN HOSPITAL ON OCTOBER 2 AND BURIED AT THE MARTYR'S CEMETERY. DEATH SERVICES WERE HELD THE SAME DAY AT THE HAJI YAQUB MOSQUE (BLUE MOSQUE) IN SHARE NAU AND WERE ATTENDED BY GREAT NUMBERS OF SENIOR AFGHAN MILITARY OFFICERS. IN THE DATH NOTICE ON RADIO AFGHANISTAN, WODUD WAS REFERRED TO AS "MISTER" AND NO MILITARY RANK GIVEN. ALL RUMORS AND REPORTS AGREE ON THESE ESSENTIALS, BUT DIVERGE WIDELY ON HOW HE ACTUALLY DIED. RUMORS REVERBERATING IN KABUL VARIOUSLY STATE THAT HE WAS KILLED BY HIS OWN HAND, ASSASSINATED BY FACTIONAL RIVALS IN THE POPA, MURDERED IN A PERSONAL VENDETTA, EXECUTED BY THE SOVIETS, AND KILLED BY THE MUJAHIDEEN.

9. COMMENT. THE LATTER EXPLANATIONS ARE NOT CREDIBLE SINCE THE SOVIETS COULD HAVE REMOVED WODUD IN A LESS DISRUPTIVE AND DRAMATIC MANNER, AND A RESISTANCE ATTACK ON THE GENERAL IN HIS OFFICE WOULD HAVE INVOLVED GREATER LOSS OF LIFE. RUMORS THAT HE WAS KILLED BY PARACHAMISTS ARE FUELED BY THE FACT THAT WODUD WAS AN OUTSPOKEN KHALQI. HOWEVER, A FACTIONAL ASSASSINATION OF SUCH A MAJOR FIGURE WOULD TRIGGER OTHER INTRA-POPA VIOLENCE IN KABUL AND MIGHT WELL HAVE DELAYED BABRAK KARMAL'S DEPARTURE FOR HUNGARY OCTOBER 3. GIVEN THE INFORMATION CURRENTLY AVAILABLE IN KABUL, SUICIDE SEEMS THE MOST LIKELY EXPLANATION THOUGH NO REPORTS OF A SUICIDE NOTE HAVE SURFACED.

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10. POWER SUPPLY IN KABUL. DURING THE WEEK OF 10-E-AZHA HOLIDAYS MOST RESIDENTIAL AREAS OF KABUL RECEIVED ELECTRICITY DURING DAYLIGHT AS WELL AS NIGHTTIME HOURS SINCE THE MINISTRIES, BAZAARS, AND FACTORIES OF THE CAPITAL WERE CLOSED. MAJOR DAYTIME POWER OUTAGES BEGAN AGAIN ON OCTOBER 2.

11. SHARE NAU BOMBING. AROUND SUNSET ON SUNDAY, OCTOBER 3, A LOUD EXPLOSION WAS HEARD THROUGHOUT THE NORMALLY QUIET SHARE NAU SECTION OF KABUL WHOSE BAZAARS ARE OFTEN FREQUENTED BY SOVIET CIVILIANS AS WELL AS OTHER FOREIGNERS. TWO SOVIET JEEPS PARKED NEAR "FRUIT BAZAAR STREET" WERE

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BOMBED AND, ACCORDING TO LOCAL RESIDENTS (STRICTLY PROTECT) ONE SOVIET SOLDIER WAS SERIOUSLY HURT. THE AREA WAS IMMEDIATELY CORDONED OFF BY SOVIET TROOPS. ALL TRACES OF THE EXPLOSION, WHICH MAY ALSO HAVE DAMAGED ONE PRIVATE CAR, WERE REMOVED BY THE NEXT MORNING.

12. SOVIET EMBASSY. AS HAS BEEN MENTIONED IN PREVIOUS REPORTS, THE SOVIET EMBASSY IN KARTE SEH IS ROUTINELY AND NIGHTLY THE TARGET OF SMALL ARMS FIRE AND OCCASIONALLY IS SUBJECTED TO MORE SUSTAINED ATTACKS WITH HEAVIER WEAPONS. THE HILLSIDE BEHIND THE EMBASSY AND THE GOZARAH AREA ARE FREQUENTLY USED BY THE RESISTANCE IN THESE ATTACKS. ACCORDINGLY, A POLICE POST WAS ESTABLISHED IN THE NEELAH DAGH AREA NEAR GOZARAH IN AN ATTEMPT TO CUT DOWN RESISTANCE ATTACKS. EARLY LAST WEEK THE MUJAHIDEEN SIMULTANEOUSLY FIRED ON THE POLICE POST AND THE SOVIET EMBASSY. UNDER THE IMPRESSION THAT THE MUJAHIDEEN HAD TAKEN OVER THE POLICE POST AND WERE FIRING FROM THAT POINT, SOVIET TROOPS FIRED ON THE POLICE STATION FOR SEVERAL HOURS. AT DAWN IT TOOK OVER AN HOUR FOR COMMUNICATIONS AND CEASE-FIRE TO BE ARRANGED BETWEEN THE POLICE STATION AND THE EMBASSY. REPORTEDLY 15 AFGHAN TROOPS WERE KILLED OR INJURED IN THE FIGHTING, MOST OF THEM BY SOVIETS.

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13. PAGHMAN. DURING THE ID HOLIDAYS, PAGHMAN TOWN AND THE

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SURROUNDING REGION REMAINED A HOT SPOT OF REGIME AND RESISTANCE ACTIVITY. MIGS AND HELICOPTERS BOMBED AND ROCKETED VILLAGES IN THE AREA DAILY. ON SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 26 THE CHANDALBOI BAZAAR IN PAGHMAN ITSELF WAS ROCKETED BY HELICOPTER FOR SEVERAL HOURS IN RETALIATION FOR MUJAHIDEEN ABDUCTION OF AFGHAN AND SOVIET SOLDIERS FROM THE CITY THE PREVIOUS NIGHT. ACCORDING TO RESISTANCE SOURCES (Q4953:5) TEN SOVIETS AND 20 AFGHAN SOLDIERS WERE CAPTURED ON SATURDAY NIGHT AND TAKEN OUT OF TOWN. SIX OF THE SOVIETS WERE REPORTED KILLED, WHILE THE REMAINING FOUR ARE BEING TAKEN TOWARD PAKISTAN. ISHAU KHEL AND THE PASHAI VALLEY WERE BOMBED FOR SEVERAL HOURS ON THE 28TH. ON WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, TWO SOVIET ANKS/APC'S WERE DESTROYED NEAR THE VILLAGE OF KUSHKQA. THE FIRST TANK WAS DISABLED BY A MUJAHIDEEN MINE AND THE SECOND ROCKETED BY THE MUJAHIDEEN WHEN IT CAME TO THE ASSISTANCE OF THE DISABLED VEHICLE. THE VILLAGE OF GOZAH TOWARDS KARGHA WAS BOMBED AND ROCKETED BY MIGS ON OCTOBER 1, AND KHOJA MOSAFER AND PESHE BADANG (PHONETIC) RECEIVED SIMILAR TREATMENT EARLIER IN THE WEEK.

14. SHOMALI. FOR THE FIRST TIME IN SEVERAL MONTHS, THERE WAS NO BOMBING OF VILLAGES IN THE SHOMALI REGION JUST NORTH OF KABUL DURING THE ID HOLIDAYS. THERE HAVE, HOWEVER, BEEN NUMEROUS CLASHES AND HOUSE-TO-HOUSE SEARCHES IN VILLAGES IN THE AREA. THERE HAVE BEEN REPEATED ATTACKS ON REGIME FORCES NEAR THE VILLAGE OF HAJI BAKHCHI (IN THE SHAKARDARA AREA) WHICH CONSISTS OF 60 TO 70 HOUSES. BEFORE THE REGIME COULD ESTABLISH A

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FORTIFIED OUTPOST IN THE VILLAGE, MUJAHIDEEN DESTROYED THE BUILDING WHICH WAS TO BE USED AS THE BASE. THE REGIME THEN WARNED THE VILLAGERS THAT UNLESS MUJAHIDEEN ACTIONS NEAR THE VILLAGE CEASE, THE ENTIRE VILLAGE WOULD BE DESTROYED. REPORTEDLY, THE REGIME NOW PLANS TO ESTABLISH THE OUTPOST IN THE HOUSE OF MOHAMAD ZARIF, A NOTED LOCAL RESISTANCE COMMANDER WHO WAS KILLED LAST WINTER. HAJI BAKHCHI ALONG WITH THE VILLAGES OF HAJI PAIK, MUSHWANI, NASERI, AND BILAL KHEL WAS SUBJECTED TO SEARCH BY SOVIET TROOPS FROM CHARIKAR ON SEPTEMBER 28. THOUGH THE TROOPS WERE PURPORTEDLY SEARCHING FOR MUJAHIDEEN, THEY APPEARED MORE INTERESTED IN SEARCHING

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EACH HOUSE AND SEIZING WHATEVER MONEY, JEWELRY AND FOOD THEY FOUND. NO RESISTANCE TO THE SEARCHES WAS OFFERED. THOUGH ONE MAN WAS SHOT AND KILLED TRYING TO ESCAPE THROUGH HIS ORCHARD. ONCE AGAIN VILLAGERS WERE TOLD THAT THEIR HOMES WOULD BE TOTALLY DESTROYED IF THEY CONTINUED TO SUPPORT THE MUJAHIDEEN.

15. MUJAHIDEEN TRICK REGIME IN NANGARHAR. THERE ARE NUMEROUS RUMORS CURRENT IN KABUL CONCERNING A SUCCESSFUL RESISTANCE TRICK PLAYED ON THE REGIME IN NANGARHAR PROVINCE EARLIER THIS MONTH. THE COMMON THREAD OF THE STORIES IS THAT A GROUP OF MUJAHIDEEN LED BY MALEK MOHAMAD ZAMAN OF THE ZAWAH VALLEY VOLUNTARILY "SURRENDERED" THEMSELVES TO REGIME AUTHORITIES IN JALALABAD, HAVING SEEN THE ERROR OF THEIR WAYS. AFTER A WEEK OF QUESTIONING, ZAMAN TOLD THE AUTHORITIES THAT THERE WAS A LARGER GROUP OF MUJAHIDEEN IN THE KHOGIANA VALLEY WEST OF JALALABAD WHO WERE WILLING TO TURN THEIR COATS IF THEY RECEIVED KALASHNIKOVs AND A LARGE SUM OF MONEY. EXCITED BY THE PROSPECT, 72 KHAD TROOPS GUIDED BY ZAMAN WENT TO THE VALLEY WITH THE MONEY AND WEAPONS, WHERE THE MUJAHIDEEN, COMMANDED BY ZAMAN, KILLED THEM ALL.

16. ONE OF THE MORE COLORFUL VERSIONS OF THE RUMOR STATES
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THAT THE MUJAHIDEEN FORCED A KHAD OFFICIAL TO RADIO JALALABAD TO REQUEST THAT THE LOCAL PARTY SECRETARY AND OTHER LUMINARIES COME TO THE VALLEY TO HELP CELEBRATE THE "GREAT VICTORY." ONLY THE ARRIVAL IN JALALABAD OF ONE SOLDIER WHO HAD ESCAPED THE VALLEY - A LA DR. BRYDON - PREVENTED A PARTY DELEGATION FROM JOINING THE KHAD TROOPS THE NEXT DAY. REPORTEDLY, ZAMAN ALSO HAD PLANNED TO HAVE SIMILAR CALLS MADE TO THE PARTY SECRETARIES IN LAGHMAN AND KUNAR.
COLDREN

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